

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4208

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 5298

NODIS/CHEROKEE

DEPT PASS SECRETARY

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FAHMY

1. I MET WITH FAHMY FOR HALF HOUR TODAY. HE SAND-
WICHED ME IN BETWEEN GREETING THE VISITING CROWN PRINCE
OF ABU DHABI AND HOSTING A LUNCHEON FOR THE VISITING
INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER. FAHMY ACCOMPANIES THE PRESIDENT
TO YUGOSLAVIA TOMORROW ON THE TRIP THAT HAS BEEN ON-AGAIN,
OFF-AGAIN.

2. FAHMY WAS IN A RELAXED MOOD. AS WAS TO BE
EXPECTED, HE ASKED WHAT I COULD TELL HIM ABOUT OUR
PLANS TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE PEACE PROCESS. I TOLD
HIM I THOUGH THIS WAS A SUBJECT BEST LEFT FOR THE
SALZBURG TALKS, AND HE DID NOT PRESS THE MATTER.
HE CONTINUES TO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE BEST WE
ARE LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO DO IN THE FORESEEABLE
FUTURE IS TO REGENERATE THE INTERIM AGREEMENT IDEA
AND PERSONALLY SEEMS SATISFIED WITH ANY SUCH DEVELOP-
MENT IF IT OCCURS.

3. FAHMY THEN ALLUDED TO THE LETTER OF THE 76 SENATORS.
HE SAID HE HAD EXPECTED THIS KIND OF THING AND
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CONTENDED IT CONFIRMS HIS VIEWS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S

CAPACITY TO MOVE DRAMATICALLY ON THE ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE IS SHARPLY LIMITED. HE ASKED IF I HAD SEEN HIS STATEMENT ON THE LETTER. I TOLD HIM I HAD AND CONGRATULATED HIM FOR HIS MODERATION IN COMMENTING ON WHAT I KNEW MUST HAVE BEEN FOR THE EGYPTIANS AN UNHELPFUL DEVELOPMENT. WE HAD CERTAINLY NOT BEEN PLEASED WITH THE LETTER. FAHMY SAID HE HAD CONSCIOUSLY MODERATED THE TONE OF HIS STATEMENT IN ORDER TO KEEP THE SENATORS' LETTER IN PERSPECTIVE HERE IN EGYPT AND TO AVOID ANY OFFICIAL EGYPTIAN STATEMENT THAT MIGHT CLOUD THE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE UPCOMING SALZBURG MEETINGS. I SAID I THOUGHT HE WAS WISE AND NOTED THAT SIGNATURE OF THE LETTER DID NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THE INDIVIDUAL SIGNERS BLINDLY SUPPORTED ISRAELI DEMANDS. I MENTIONED THE MCGOVERN CLARIFICATION AS AN EXAMPLE. FAHMY AGREED THAT THIS WAS SO.

4. WITH A GREATER SENSE OF IRATENESS, FAHMY NEXT REFERRED TO THE RECENT STATEMENT BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER ON LIKELY AMERICAN REACTION TO ANOTHER OIL EMBARGO. THIS, HE CONTENTED, HAD CAUSED EVEN MORE EMBARRASSMENT FOR THE GOE THAN HAD THE SENATORS' LETTER. WHY DID SCHLESINGER HAVE TO MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT ON THE EVE OF THE SALZBURG TALKS? I INVITED FAHMY'S ATTENTION TO PRESIDENT FORD'S PERTINENT STATEMENT, AND HE READILY AGREED THAT THE LATTER HAD TAKEN SOME OF THE STING OUT OF SCHLESINGER'S REMARK. HOWEVER, HE INSISTED, THE EGYPTIANS AND OTHER ARABS WONDER WHY THE ADMINISTRATION SEEMS TO BE SPEAKING WITH SUCH DIFFERENT VOICES ON THE SAME SUBJECT. THIS KIND OF THING IS NOT HELPFUL TO USG POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST AT THIS SENSITIVE JUNCTURE.

5. FAHMY ASKED ME TO PASS ON THAT HE LOOKS FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT SALZBURG.
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